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erty. It lives scarcely any where in Greece but in Republican Athens. At Rome, when the Republic emerged from the Monarchy, the Orator controlled the city. The Orators of Rome controlled the city when her legions were conquering the world. In every nation, the powers of the Orator have been conspicuous. Antipater deemed the subjugation of Athens not complete until she had delivered up to him her orators. Eloquence and dialectics were anciently deemed essential to a finished education.

No branch of Education, in the opinion of the speaker, had been so neglected in this country as Oratory. Rarely named even as a part of an Academic course, it has been fastened, in a few cases, to another Professorship, or has been degraded to an unmeaning mechanical task. It more resembles the dry, hard skeleton from an anatomical cabinet, than a proud, ardent, star-browed genius.—From the pupil alone, which the Orator was pained to say, presented many wretched specimens of oratory—there were many general public speaking. This was greatly to be deplored. Of all the means of education, the speaker considered none so well calculated to fit the student for public duty as the exercises of Literary Societies, such as he had the honor of addressing.

Dr. Bethune here announced his theme, viz., "The Orator of the Present Time: the Secret of his Power, and the Motives to his exercise." We may easily understand the effects produced by rhetorical eloquence, in a period when there were few books, and those produced only by the pen; when, with few exceptions, the voice was the sole channel of communication between mind and mind. The Orator then enjoyed almost a monopoly of public influence.

We live at a time in circumstances widely different. The steam printing-press, like an inexhaustible volcano, yearly pours forth a lava-like eruption of books upon every imaginable theme, while pamphlets fly around us thick as the flakes of ashes which overwhelmed Pompeii, and newspapers are as essential as the morning and evening loaf. [Laughter and applause.] It is well that we have the privilege of reading what we choose, for if we were compelled to read the works of writers now lying dead on the back shelves of booksellers' shops, it would be as great a nuisance as the grinding organs along our streets. If Solomon sighed at the multitude of books in his day, and declared that "much study was a weariness of the flesh," how very tired he would be, had he lived till now!

So rapid are our means of multiplying and diffusing thought, that men's minds are stirred by the events of the times, almost before they have transpired. The Press is the grand instrument of the world's elevation. Yet, like every other blessing intrusted to human hands, it may be abused for mischief. But be it remembered, that if it be potent for evil, it is much more potent for good; as Truth is more potent than Error.

Yet the power of the Press, great as it is, is inferior to that of the Orator. The speaker would boldly assume that the power of the Orator has not diminished since ancient times. We regret that space fails us to follow out his arguments in behalf of the cultivation of Oratory. The orator should be familiar with the secret springs that mold human actions; he must win his auditors and learn to guide them while they remain unconscious of the spell

The Oration closed with a few earnest words of counsel to young men. It was an able production, and the speaker was frequently interrupted by the applause of his audience. He was heard with marked attention.

The Poet of the evening, MR. JOHN G. SAXE, was then introduced. The Poem, in accordance with the general expectation, from the known ability of

the author for harmonious verse and humorous delineation—was filled with choice bits of humor and produced a great effect.

It treated of the Poet's escape from
 "The stern barrier of an office-door,"
 whence the poet proceeds to
 "Sing New-England—land of hill and dale,
 Of lofty mountains and of sturdy men—"
 "Where human work enlarges human worth."
 A variety of historical reminiscences follow in
 their course, and the poet speaks feelingly of "the
 proud mausoleum,"

The scene changes :
 " 'T is early Summer ;"
 The great men of the nation are adverted to , among

A Yankee of the genuine stamp is introduced.—The poet owns, "he likes the composite man, a gen-

"Is fond of ciphering; but when his logic's done,
His magic number still is Number One!"

But, "He sees aqueducts in bubbling springs;
Buildings in stones; and cash in everything."
He "— view him nearer, by his hearth you find
All that is noble in his mind."
He "— — — — — reveres the good.

The Poem was a happy effort, and was greatly applauded.

—This evening the Alumni of the University will celebrate their Anniversary at the chapel of the University buildings, when the Annual Oration will be delivered by HOWARD CROSBY, Esq.

SPIRIT RAPPINGS—MR. GREELEY'S OPINION.—We have received from the West two or three letters requesting us to state whether, previous to Mr. GREELEY'S leaving for Europe, his

views had changed with regard to the nature of the mysterious demonstrations which of late have attracted such attention in various parts of the country. In reply to this we can only say that

shortly after arriving in London. Mr. G. wrote a letter to *The Athenæum* newspaper, denying the charge that he had ever used *The Tribune* to advocate a belief in the spirituality of the demon.

"My opinions did certainly, at one time, incline to that hypothesis, (that the noises were made by spirits) and I am still unable clearly to account for the observations. Part of that letter was published, including the following sentence:

phenomena I have witnessed, or believe to have been witnessed by credible persons, on any other grounds. But I now incline to the belief that Mesmerism, Clairvoyance and Jugglery combined, may yet furnish a clue to the mystery."


IMPROVEMENTS IN GAS-LIGHTS.—An improvement in the method of lighting with gas has recently been announced in Paris, which promises to be of importance. It has been used with success

in the office of the *Press*, and excites the admiration of all who see it. The light proceeds from a small vessel provided with tubes which send forth long jets of flame, which play on another vessel placed a short distance from the first. The effect is

short distance above the first. The gas is brought into the large vessel; this is heated by the flame below; it heats gradually and soon doubles its volume; when doubled, the same illuminating matter comes in contact with double the quantity of atmospheric

air, and hence burns with greater intensity and without loss; nearly one half being lost when the gas is not expanded. A small capsule of platinum serves to divide the flame, and as it is heated, becomes incandescent itself. The arrangement is such as

comes luminous itself. The arrangement is such as to obviate the danger of explosion, and much cheaper materials can be used for the production of the gas than in the ordinary method.

 "THE TRIAL OF EFFIE DEANS," a brilliant colored engraving from the painting of Lader, is published by N. Currier, 152 Nassau-st. It forms a large cabinet picture, representing the scene in which Effie Deans is brought before the Court, as she

well senseless on the floor of the Court-House. A variety of striking groups are introduced, which, with their bold contrasts of countenance and costume, present an animated and impressive spectacle. The en-

graving, in an appropriate frame, is adapted to produce an admirable effect, and would furnish an attractive ornament for the parlor or library.

The girl, stabbed by Henry, at
hamburg on Saturday last, was not dead last night,
but strong hopes are entertained that she will recover.